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Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2015

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[2 July 2015]

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Letter of transmittal

Letter dated 7 July 2015 from the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the General Assembly, in accordance with resolution 69/107 of 5 December 2014. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2015.

(*Signed*) Xavier **Lasso Mendoza**
Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Chapter I

Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The establishment and history of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is covered in detail in section II of the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2015/L.1).

2. At its sixty-ninth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee (A/69/23), the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/107, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2014, and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) and to carry out the actions approved by the Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories. The Assembly also called upon all of the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in the Special Committee's future sessions.

3. In addition to resolution 69/107, the General Assembly adopted 10 other resolutions and a decision relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2014, which are listed below.

1. Resolutions and decision concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	58/316[a]	1 July 2004
Western Sahara	69/101	5 December 2014
New Caledonia	69/102	5 December 2014
French Polynesia	69/103	5 December 2014
Tokelau	69/104	5 December 2014

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands	69/105 A and B	5 December 2014

[a] In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to resolution 58/316, the item should remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

Decision

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Gibraltar	69/523	5 December 2014

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	69/97	5 December 2014
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	69/98	5 December 2014
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	69/99	5 December 2014
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	69/100	5 December 2014
Dissemination of information on decolonization	69/106	5 December 2014

3. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

4. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and which it took into account were listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2015/L.1).

4. Membership of the Special Committee

5. As at 1 January 2015, the Special Committee was composed of the following 29 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2015 and election of officers

6. On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs addressed the Special Committee at its 1st meeting on 19 February 2015.

7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chair:

Xavier Lasso Mendoza (Ecuador)

Vice-Chairs:

Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez (Cuba)
Desra Percaya (Indonesia)
Vandi Chidi Minah (Sierra Leone)

Rapporteur:

Bashar Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

8. At its 1st meeting, on 19 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair and outlined in document A/AC.109/2015/L.2. By that action and consistent with its established practice, the Special Committee agreed to continue to formulate its decisions in the same format as those of the General Assembly and to submit them to the Assembly at its seventieth session. The Special Committee also agreed to the Chairman's recommendation that the Rapporteur continue to follow the established format of the Special Committee's annual report to the Assembly. It further decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chair relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (see A/AC.109/2015/L.2). At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement relating to the organization of work (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.1).

9. Algeria Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Kenya, Lebanon, South Africa, Spain and the Holy See participated in the 2015 session of the Special Committee as observers.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

10. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of

its entire membership, the Special Committee and its Bureau were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations among the officers of the Special Committee via electronic means.

1. Special Committee

11. The Special Committee held eight meetings at Headquarters during 2015, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1st meeting, 19 February;

(b) Second part of the session: 2nd meeting, 15 June; 3rd and 4th meetings, 22 June; 5th meeting, 23 June; 6th and 7th meetings, 25 June; and 8th meeting, 26 June.

12. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the questions set out below and adopted decisions thereon. The texts of the decisions may be found in the present report, as follows:

Question	*Meeting*	*Decision*
Dissemination of information on decolonization	2nd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	2nd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution I
Sending visiting and special missions to Territories	2nd and 5th	Chap. IV, para. 77
Gibraltar	2nd	Chap. VIII, para. 94
Special Committee decision of 23 June 2014 concerning Puerto Rico	3rd and 4th	Chap. I, para. 22
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands	5th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VII
Tokelau	5th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VI
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	6th and 7th	Chap. XII, para. 139
New Caledonia	8th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IV
French Polynesia	8th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution V
Western Sahara	5th	Chap. VIII, para. 100

Question	*Meeting*	*Decision*
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	5th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution III
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	5th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution II
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	8th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IX

2. Subsidiary bodies

13. At its 1st meeting, on 19 February, the Special Committee adopted the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2015/L.2) and decided to maintain its Bureau as its only subsidiary body. During the period covered by the present report, the Bureau held four meetings.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

14. At its 1st meeting, on 19 February, the Special Committee adopted the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2015/L.2) and decided to take up as appropriate the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

Special Committee decision of 23 June 2014 concerning Puerto Rico

15. At its 1st meeting, on 19 February, the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Special Committee decision of 23 June 2014 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it in plenary meetings.

16. At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 15 and 22 June, the Chair drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee.

17. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a report on the item prepared by the Rapporteur (A/AC.109/2015/L.13) and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2015/L.6).

18. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.6. The Special Committee heard from the following speakers:

Mark Anthony Bimbela, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico; Pedro R. Pierluisi, New Progressive Party; Julio Muriente, Movimiento Independentista

Nacional Hostosiano; Ramón Nenadich, Estado Nacional Soberano de Borinken; Jan Susler, National Lawyers Guild's International Committee; Juan Dalmau, Puerto Rican Independence Party; José M. López Sierra, Compañeros Unidos para la Descolonización de Puerto Rico; José M. Umpierre Mellado, Acción Soberanista; José R. Ortiz; Rossana López León, Movimiento Puertorriqueño Anticabotaje; Manuel Rivera, Puertorriqueños Unidos en Acción; Ismael Muller Vázquez, Frente Socialista de Puerto Rico; Larry E. Alicea Rodríguez, Colegio de Profesionales del Trabajo Social de Puerto Rico; Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, Comité de Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico; Olga I. Sanabria Dávila, Comité de Puerto Rico para Naciones Unidas; Osvaldo Toledo, American Association of Jurists; Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, LatinoJustice PRLDEF; Annabel Guillén, Igualdad; José Enrique Melendez Ortiz, League of United Latin American Citizens; Osvaldo Burgos Pérez, Coalición Puertorriqueña contra la Pena de Muerte; Julio J. Rolón, Puerto Rico No Se Vende; Gerardo Lugo Segarra, Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico; Ana M. López, New York Coordinator to Free Oscar López Rivera; Chris Hoeppner, Socialist Workers Party; Edwin Pagán Bonilla, Generación 51; Zoé Laboy, Ideological Statehood Reborn; and Luis Toro Goyco, Convergencia Nacional Boricua.

19. At the 4th meeting, on 22 June, statements were made by Héctor Bermúdez Zenón, Grupo por la Igualdad y la Justicia de Puerto Rico; Jesús Mangual, Fundación Puerto Rico en Marcha; Richard López Rodríguez, Frente Patriótico Arecibeño; Phillip Arroyo, Coalition for the Presidential Vote in Puerto Rico; Arturo Otero, Latinos United For a Progressive America; Alexander Gonzalez, High School Republicans of Puerto Rico; Javier S. Torres, Brigada Guarionex; María de Lourdes Guzmán, Movimiento Unión Soberanista; and Mary Anne Grady Flores, Ithaca Catholic Workers Vieques Support Group.

20. Statements were also made by the representatives of Ecuador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicaragua, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

21. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.6 without a vote. The representative of Cuba made a statement.

22. Draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.6 read as follows:

Decision of the Special Committee of 23 June 2014 concerning Puerto Rico

The Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Considering that the midway point of the period 2011-2020, proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, will soon be reached,

Bearing in mind the 33 resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico contained in the reports of the Special

Committee to the General Assembly, in particular those adopted without a vote in recent years,

Recalling that 25 July 2015 marks the 117th anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Noting with concern that despite the diverse initiatives taken by the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States in recent years, the process of the decolonization of Puerto Rico, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee on Puerto Rico, has not yet been set in motion,

Bearing in mind that the people of Puerto Rico mostly rejected its current status of political subordination on 6 November 2012, and that such status prevents it from taking sovereign decisions to address the serious economic and social problems of Puerto Rico, including unemployment, marginalization and poverty,

Stressing again the urgent need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Noting that the Inter-agency Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status designated by the President of the United States, which submitted its third report on 16 March 2011, reaffirmed that Puerto Rico is a territory subject to United States congressional authority, and that to date the discussion of the issue of status is at a standstill,

Taking note of the Declarations adopted at the II and III Summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held in Havana, Cuba on 28 and 29 January 2014, and in Belén, Costa Rica, on 28 and 29 January 2015, respectively, in which the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico is reiterated, note is taken of the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee, reiterating that it is an issue of interest for CELAC, a commitment is made to continue working, within the framework of international law, and in particular within the framework of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), to make the region of Latin America and the Caribbean a territory free of colonialism and colonies, and the CELAC Quartet, with the participation of other member States that wish to join the mandate, is tasked with presenting proposals to move forward on this matter,

Also noting the Special Declaration on Puerto Rico adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, meeting in Caracas on 4 and 5 February 2012, whereby they expressed their strong support for the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and full independence; recalled that Puerto Rico is a Latin American and Caribbean nation with its own unmistakable identity and history, whose rights to sovereignty have been violated by the colonial rule imposed for more than a century; stressed that the cause of Puerto Rican independence concerns the region of Latin America and the Caribbean and their forums for dialogue and political cooperation, especially the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and demanded the release of political prisoners convicted of fighting for the independence and self-determination of Puerto Rico, including comrade Oscar López Rivera, who has been imprisoned under inhumane conditions for 34 years,

Further noting the "Panama Proclamation", adopted by the Latin American and Caribbean Congress in support of Puerto Rico's Independence, which was held in Panama on 18 and 19 November 2006 and attended by 33 political parties from 22 countries of the region, of which the conclusions were reaffirmed in the declaration adopted by the Council of the Socialist International in Cascais, Portugal, on 5 February 2013, which expressed support for the repeated and unanimous call of the Special Committee of the General Assembly to consider the colonial case of Puerto Rico, and for the release of Oscar López Rivera and other Puerto Rican patriots who are serving sentences in jails in the United States; and further expressed satisfaction and solidarity with the rejection by a majority of the people of Puerto Rico of the continuation of the current colonial status of Puerto Rico,

Noting also the debate in Puerto Rico on the search for a procedure that would enable the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico to begin, and aware of the ineffectiveness of consultations originating in the United States, of the principle that any initiative seeking a solution to the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico, and of the fact that, to date, several draft laws in favour of convening a constitutional assembly on status have been presented in Puerto Rico,

Further noting the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico in favour of the release of Puerto Rican political prisoners, some of whom have been serving sentences in prisons in the United States of America for more than 34 years for reasons related to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico,

Noting the concern of the people of Puerto Rico over violent actions, including repression and intimidation, against supporters of Puerto Rican independence, including those that have recently come to light through documents declassified by federal agencies of the United States,

Aware that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, was used for over 60 years by the United States Marine Corps to carry out military exercises, with negative consequences for the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of that Puerto Rican municipality,

Noting the consensus among the people and the Government of Puerto Rico on the need to clean up, decontaminate and return to the people of Puerto Rico of all the lands previously used for military exercises and installations, and use them for the social and economic development of Puerto Rico, as well as on the slowness of the process thus far,

Also noting the constant complaints made by the inhabitants of Vieques Island regarding the continued bombing and the use of open burning as a clean-up method, thereby exacerbating the existing health and pollution problems and endangering civilian lives,

Further noting that in the Final Document of the Sixteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries,[1] held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 26 to 31 August 2012, and other meetings of the Movement, the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence is reaffirmed under General Assembly resolution

[1] A/67/506-S/2012/752, annex I.

1514 (XV); the Government of the United States is urged to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence and to return the territory and occupied installations on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation; and the General Assembly is urged to actively consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects,

Having heard statements and accounts representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico:[2]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

2. *Reiterates* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own distinct national identity;

3. *Calls again* upon the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will enable the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance and in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico, and to take decisions, in a sovereign manner, to address their urgent economic and social needs, including unemployment, marginalization and poverty;

4. *Notes* the broad support of eminent persons, Governments and political forces in Latin America and the Caribbean for the independence of Puerto Rico;

5. *Again notes* the debate in Puerto Rico on the implementation of a mechanism that would ensure the full participation of representatives of all sectors of Puerto Rican public opinion, including a constitutional assembly on status with a basis in the decolonization alternatives recognized in international law, and aware of the principle that any initiative seeking a solution to the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico;

6. *Expresses serious concern* over the actions carried out against supporters of Puerto Rican independence, and encourages the investigation of those actions with the necessary rigour and with the cooperation of the relevant authorities;

7. *Requests* the General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico comprehensively and in all its aspects, and to decide on this issue as soon as possible;

8. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee the legitimate right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to complete the return of occupied land and installations on Vieques Island and in Ceiba to the people of Puerto Rico, respect

[2] A/AC.109/2015/L.13.

fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development, and expedite and cover the costs of the process of cleaning up and decontaminating the areas previously used in military exercises through means that do not continue to worsen the serious consequences of its military activity in order to protect the health of the inhabitants of Vieques Island and the environment;

9. *Again calls upon* the President of the United States of America to release, on humanitarian grounds, Puerto Rican political prisoners Oscar López Rivera, who is 71 years old and has been serving a sentence in a United States jail for over 34 years for reasons related to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico, and welcomes the release of Norberto González Claudio;

10. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee in compliance with the provisions of its resolution of 23 June 2014;

11. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report in 2015 on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.

F. Consideration of other matters

23. At its 1st meeting, on 19 February, the Special Committee adopted the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2015/L.2) and decided to consider in plenary meetings the questions of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization, the holding of a series of meetings away from Headquarters, the pattern of conferences, and other questions, as mentioned in paragraphs 24 to 34 below.

1. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

24. The Special Committee, in its consideration of specific items, took into account the decision mentioned in paragraph 22 above.

2. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

25. Having regard to its programme of work for 2015, the Special Committee remained committed to its mandate to hold meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV), by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions.

3. Pattern of conferences

26. In accordance with measures that it had taken previously, the Special Committee continued to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference-servicing resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements by circulating communications and information material by, as much as

possible, electronic means and as informal notes and aides-memoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and realizing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents of the Special Committee in 2015 is contained in annex I to the present report.

27. In the conduct of all of its meetings during 2015, the Special Committee closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 67/237. By effectively organizing its programme of work and holding extensive informal consultations, the Special Committee was able to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum.

4. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

28. In accordance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of the four administering Powers, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, participated in the work of the Special Committee in 2015, either during its plenary meetings at Headquarters or during the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua.

29. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 5th meeting, on 23 June, adopted a resolution on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization (see chap. IV).

5. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

30. The Special Committee continued to encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work at Headquarters and at its regional seminars.

6. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

31. The question of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories was acknowledged by the Special Committee during the Caribbean regional seminar and at its 8th meeting, on 26 June, in connection with its consideration of the report of the seminar (see chap. II and annex II).

7. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

32. At its 1st meeting, on 19 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2015/L.2) and, in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly and based on the practice initiated by the Committee in 2005, decided to continue to formulate its decisions in General Assembly format and to submit them to the Assembly at its seventieth session. Also at the first meeting, the Special

Committee agreed to the Chairman's recommendation that the Rapporteur continue to follow the established format of the Committee's annual report to the Assembly.

Draft report

33. At its 8th meeting, on 26 June, the Special Committee, on the recommendation of the Chair, agreed to defer to its next session the consideration of the Chair's proposal to, for the first time, prepare a draft report (A/AC.109/2015/L.14) containing only the procedural aspects of its proceedings, which would serve as a quick and integrated reference document. The Committee was not able to review the document, owing to a lack of time. Following the decision to defer its consideration until the Committee's next session, the document was withdrawn from the list of documents of the Special Committee in 2015, at the instruction of the Chair.

8. Other questions

34. At its 1st meeting, on 19 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2015/L.2) and decided to take into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings, the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and a decision listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (see para. 3 above), all of which were taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

35. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 69/99 on the item, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chair of the Special Committee held consultations to consider appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (see E/2015/65). An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is contained in chapter VI of the present report.

36. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as reflected in the recommendations of the Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII). The Special Committee took into account relevant resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council in 2014 and continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

37. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact on a regular basis with the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum, in order to assist it in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of those intergovernmental organizations.

38. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 69/106 and 69/107, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations with an interest in the field of decolonization (see A/AC.109/2015/18). The related decisions of the Special Committee are listed in chapter XIII of the present report.

39. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, having regard to relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

H. Review of work

40. In ongoing efforts to find creative and innovative ways to enable better implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee, its Bureau maintained the practice of holding during the intersessional period informal consultations with the administering Powers and other stakeholders regarding the status of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the Committee's agenda. Discussions with the administering Powers in that regard centred on the situation in the Territories for which they were each responsible and aimed at promoting cooperation and partnership with them in addressing the decolonization prospects of those Territories, on a case-by-case basis.

41. On 5 May 2015, the Bureau met with the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/107, which requested that he meet with the Bureau informally at least once a year to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help advance the decolonization agenda, on a case-by-case basis. During the meeting, the Bureau shared with the Secretary-General the recent initiatives and activities undertaken by the Special Committee, which were intended to galvanize the implementation of its mandate, including its visiting mission to New Caledonia in March 2014, the conclusions and recommendations of which were approved in Assembly resolution 69/102. The Bureau also briefed him on the Committee's ongoing dialogue with the administering Powers and other stakeholders on the status of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Bureau requested the Secretary-General's support for securing more cooperation from the administering Powers and other Member States in the effective implementation of resolutions and decisions on decolonization, in particular requesting his good offices for advancing the Committee's work, including on the questions of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Western Sahara.

42. In response, the Secretary-General encouraged the Special Committee to seize the momentum created by its revitalized activities to create new ways of achieving the goal of decolonization for the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. He underlined the importance of sustained dialogue with the administering Powers and other stakeholders and reaffirmed the availability of his good offices if all parties were engaged in dialogue. The Secretary-General informed the Bureau that he had visited New Caledonia briefly, while in transit. He urged the Special Committee to make further efforts to encourage dialogue among all parties, in order to ensure peaceful progress in the ongoing self-determination process in that Territory. Meetings of the Bureau with the Secretary-General were first initiated by the Committee Chair in 2013.

43. The Special Committee also considered and adopted recommendations on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, the question of sending visiting and special missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

44. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a Caribbean regional seminar in Managua, from 19 to 21 May 2015, at which participants, while focusing on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, reflected on the United Nations at 70 and took stock of the decolonization agenda.

45. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the dissemination of information on decolonization, which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its seventieth session (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII). The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 23 June 2014 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard representatives of many concerned organizations and adopted a decision on the matter (see para. 22).

I. Future programme of work and activities envisaged for 2016

46. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961, as reaffirmed in resolution 69/107, and taking into account its draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.9/Rev.1, adopted at its 8th meeting on 26 June and contained in the present report (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IX), the Special Committee intends to continue in 2016 to seek suitable means for the immediate, full and speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

47. The Special Committee will continue to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In particular, the Special Committee intends to formulate specific proposals, on a case-by-case basis, to bring about an end to colonialism, in accordance with the Declaration.

48. The Special Committee will maintain its efforts to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

49. The Special Committee will continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

50. In 2016, the Special Committee will aim at developing and finalizing, in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a

constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

51. In addition, the Special Committee will continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

52. The Special Committee will also continue to conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on its work, and will endeavour to facilitate the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars.

53. In that connection, the Special Committee plans to hold a seminar in the Pacific region in 2016, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and in keeping with the Committee's practice of holding seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions on alternate years.

54. The Special Committee will take all steps necessary to elicit worldwide support from Governments and national and international organizations for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of related resolutions.

55. As is customary, the Special Committee will continue to observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with resolution 60/119.

56. The Special Committee requests that the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, review and augment the resources at the disposal of the Special Committee, in order to ensure it has the funding, facilities and services commensurate with its envisioned activities for 2016.

J. Conclusion of the 2015 session

57. At the 8th meeting, on 26 June, the Chair made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2015 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.8).

Chapter II

Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

58. At its 1st meeting, on 19 February 2015, the Special Committee, in approving the recommendations of its Chair on its organization of work for the year (see A/AC.109/2015/L.2), decided to allocate to its plenary meetings, as appropriate, the question of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

59. At its 1st, 2nd, 5th and 8th meetings, on 19 February and on 15, 23 and 26 June, the Special Committee considered the questions of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015 to assess the goals and expected accomplishments of the Third Decade.

60. At its 1st meeting, the Special Committee had before it the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Caribbean regional seminar (A/AC.109/2015/17).

61. At the same meeting, following a statement by the Chair, the Special Committee approved the composition of its official delegation to the Caribbean regional seminar (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.1).

62. At its 8th meeting, the Special Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.9/Rev.1, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", as submitted by the Chair.

63. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IX).

64. Also at the 8th meeting, the Chair of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Caribbean regional seminar, which had been circulated to members of the Special Committee as an informal document.

65. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the draft report of the seminar and decided to annex it to its report to the General Assembly, in accordance with established practice (see annex II).

Chapter III
Dissemination of information on decolonization

66. The Special Committee considered the question of dissemination of information on decolonization at its 2nd meeting, on 15 June 2015.

67. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 69/106 on the dissemination of information on decolonization and resolution 69/107 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

68. At the 2nd meeting, the Special Committee heard statements from the representatives of the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.2).

69. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Special Committee drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2015/18) and a draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chair (A/AC.109/2015/L.4).

70. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.4 without a vote.

71. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII).

Chapter IV
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

72. The Special Committee considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories at its 2nd and 5th meetings, on 15 and 23 June 2015.

73. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular the pertinent provisions of resolution 69/107 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolutions 69/104 and 69/105 relating to specific Territories.

74. In addition, the Special Committee considered the situation in the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 69/106 and 69/107, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

75. At the 5th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2015/L.5).

76. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.5, without a vote (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.5).

77. The text of the draft resolution read as follows:

Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and in the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[1]

Recalling with satisfaction the work of the Special Committee visiting mission to New Caledonia, which took place from 10 to 15 March 2014, and taking note of its report,[2]

[1] See resolution 65/119.

[2] See A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1.

Recalling the two successful missions that were conducted to observe the referendums in Tokelau, in February 2006 and October 2007, at the invitation of New Zealand as the administering Power,[3]

Recalling also the cooperation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, in having facilitated the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in April 2006 at the request of the territorial Government,[4]

Recalling the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Governments of American Samoa and of Anguilla for a visiting mission by the Special Committee,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization and the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;[1]

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers that have not yet done so to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee in exploring the possibility of undertaking visiting or special missions in furtherance of the decolonization mandate of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* its Chair to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned and to report thereon to the Special Committee on the results of those consultations.

[3] See A/AC.109/2006/20 and A/AC.109/2007/19.

[4] See A/AC.109/2007/5.

Chapter V

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

78. The Special Committee considered the question of economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at its 5th meeting, on 23 June 2015.

79. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including in particular resolution 69/98 on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and resolution 69/107 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In addition, the Special Committee took into consideration relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.11.

80. At the 5th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2015/L.11).

81. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.11 without a vote.

82. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution II).

Chapter VI

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

83. The Special Committee considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations at its 5th meeting, on 23 June 2015.

84. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 69/99 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 24 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventieth session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject, including resolution 65/119, by which the Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

85. The Special Committee also took into account relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.10.

86. At the 5th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/70/64) and to the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration (see E/2015/65), as well as to the draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2015/L.10).

87. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.10, without a vote.

88. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution III).

Chapter VII
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

89. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations at its 2nd meeting, on 15 June 2015.

90. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII), by which the Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer aspects of its functions to the Special Committee, and resolution 69/97, in paragraph 4 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 69/107 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolution 65/119 on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

91. At the 2nd meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/70/67), which reflected the dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations by the administering Powers in regard to Territories under their respective administration, as well as to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2015/L.3).

92. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.3, without a vote.

93. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution I).

Chapter VIII
Gibraltar and Western Sahara

94. In its consideration of the questions of Gibraltar and Western Sahara, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 69/101 and decision 69/523, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. Gibraltar

95. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 2nd meeting, on 15 June 2015.

96. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2015/13).

97. At the 2nd meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, statements were made by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, and the representative of the Self-Determination for Gibraltar Group, Richard Buttigieg (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.2).

98. At the same meeting, the representative of Spain made a statement (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.2).

99. Also at the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its seventieth session, and to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

B. Western Sahara

100. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 5th meeting, on 23 June 2015.

101. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2015/2).

102. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Nicaragua, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Sierra Leone and Ecuador.

103. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to the representative of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario), Ahmed Boukhari, who made a statement (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.5).

104. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the observers for South Africa, Algeria and Morocco.

105. Also at the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its seventieth session and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

Chapter IX
New Caledonia and French Polynesia

106. In its consideration of the questions of New Caledonia and French Polynesia, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 69/102 and 69/103, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. New Caledonia

107. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 8th meeting, on 26 June. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 69/102 and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2015/15).

108. At the 8th meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at the 2nd meeting, on 15 June, statements were made by the President of the Congress of New Caledonia, Gaël Yanno, the representative of the Committee on Education and Culture of the Congress of New Caledonia, Shonu Wayaridri, the Leader of the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front in the Congress of New Caledonia, Roch Wamytan, and the Secretary of the International Unit of the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front, Mikaël Forrest (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.8).

109. At the same meeting, the Vice-President of the Government of New Caledonia, Jean-Louis d'Anglebermes, made a statement.

110. Also at the 8th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of France and Sierra Leone.

111. At the 8th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2015/L.12).

112. Also at the 8th meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.12, which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

113. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IV).

B. French Polynesia

114. The Special Committee considered the question of French Polynesia at its 8th meeting, on 26 June 2015. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 69/103, and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2015/16).

115. At the same meeting, in accordance with a request for hearing granted by the Special Committee at the outset of the meeting, a representative of the Union pour la démocratie, Richard Ariihau Tuheiava, made a statement (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.8).

116. Also at the 8th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2015/L.16), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

117. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution V).

Chapter X

American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

118. The Special Committee considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands at its 5th meeting, on 23 June 2015.

119. In considering the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 69/107 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

120. The delegations of the United Kingdom and the United States, the administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration.

121. For its consideration of the items, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/2015/1, 4-12 and 14).

122. At the 5th meeting and with the consent of the Special Committee, the representative of the Territorial Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Conrad Howell, made a statement (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.5).

123. At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement introducing a consolidated draft resolution (A/AC.109/2015/L.8) on the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.5).

124. Also at the 5th meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.8 without a vote. The Committee also decided that, with effect from 2016, it would address the respective Territories consolidated in that draft resolution under independent resolutions (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.5).

125. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VII).

Chapter XI
Tokelau

126. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 5th meeting, on 23 June 2015. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 69/104, and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2015/3).

127. At the 5th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2015/L.15).

128. At the same meeting and with the consent of the Special Committee, the Ulu-o-Tokelau made a statement, and statements were also made by the representatives of Sierra Leone and New Zealand (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.5).

129. Also at the 5th meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.15, which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

130. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VI).

Chapter XII
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

131. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 25 June 2015. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

132. For its consideration of the item, the Chair drew the attention of the Special Committee to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2015/19) and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2015/L.7).

133. At the 6th meeting, on 25 June, the Chair informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain and Uruguay, as well as the observers for the Holy See and the United Nations Children's Fund had requested to participate in the Committee's work at its present session. The Committee acceded to those requests.

134. At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at the outset of the meeting, statements were made by representatives of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Phyllis Rendell and Michael Summers, and by Guillermo Clifton and Ricardo Patterson (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.6).

135. Also at the 6th meeting, the representative of Chile, also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.7. Thereafter, the Foreign Minister of Argentina made a statement (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.6).

136. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic, China, Nicaragua, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

137. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.7 without a vote (see A/AC.109/2015/SR.6).

138. At the 7th meeting, on 22 June, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Indonesia, Tunisia, Sierra Leone and Ecuador, and by the observers for Uruguay (also on behalf of the Union of South American Nations), Brazil (also on behalf of the Southern Common Markets), Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Peru and Paraguay, following which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina made a statement.

139. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2015/L.7 read as follows:

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[1]

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995, A/AC.109/2062 of 22 July 1996, A/AC.109/2096 of 16 June 1997, A/AC.109/2122 of 6 July 1998, A/AC.109/1999/23 of 1 July 1999, A/AC.109/2000/23 of 11 July 2000, A/AC.109/2001/25 of 29 June 2001, A/AC.109/2002/25 of 19 June 2002, A/AC.109/2003/24 of 16 June 2003, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2004, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2005, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2006, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2007, the resolution adopted on 12 June 2008, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2009, the resolution adopted on 24 June 2010, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2011, the resolution adopted on 14 June 2012, the resolution adopted on 20 June 2013, the resolution adopted on 26 June 2014, and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

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[1] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. *Reiterates* that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the President of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and the Special Committee session of 14 June 2012;

3. *Regrets* that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. *Requests* the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. *Reiterates* its firm support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. *Decides* to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Chapter XIII
Recommendations

140. The Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 69/97 of 5 December 2014, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of the timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to the economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, and the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

[1] A/70/67.

Draft resolution II
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2015 relating to the item,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991, 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and 65/119 of 10 December 2010,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories and also to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in this regard reminds the administering Powers of their responsibility and accountability vis-à-vis any detriment to the interests of the people of those territories, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples

of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/70/23), chap. V.

Draft resolution III
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the Economic and Social Council[2] on the item,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2015 relating to the item,[3]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolutions 2013/43 of 25 July 2013 and 2014/25 of 16 July 2014,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming also the participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social spheres, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective responsibilities, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued

cooperation and assistance that they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 69/99 of 5 December 2014 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts through the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as an important

element for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), including possible participation at the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,[4] calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

14. *Requests* the Chair of the Special Committee to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the President of the Economic and Social Council;

15. *Recalls* the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide dissemination;

16. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, inter alia, with the assistance of the relevant specialized agencies;

18. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

19. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts through the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

21. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

22. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international

institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the measures necessary to implement it, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

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[1] A/70/64.

[2] E/2015/65.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/70/23), chap. VI.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), sect. III.G.

Draft resolution IV
Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2015 relating to New Caledonia,[1]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote equitable political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Recalling the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session, held from 12 to 30 September and on 21 October 2011,[2] following his visit to the Territory in February 2011,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region, including through the hosting of New Caledonian delegates in the French diplomatic and consular missions in the region,

Recalling the conclusions of the nineteenth Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit, under the historic inaugural Chairmanship of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste of New Caledonia, held in Nouméa on 20 June 2013, including the Leaders Declaration of the Group reaffirming the strong commitment and support, including technical assistance, for the self-determination of New Caledonia, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Nouméa Accord,[3]

Welcoming the exchange of letters between the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group secretariat on the sharing of information on New Caledonia,

Mindful that New Caledonia has entered the most seminal phase of the Nouméa Accord process, a period that requires continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory in order to help the people of New Caledonia to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the objectives set out in the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Welcoming the Charter of the Kanak people, common base of the fundamental values and principles of the Kanak civilization, which was proclaimed in April 2014 by the customary authorities, Great Chiefs, Chiefs, Presidents of District Councils and Presidents of the Clan Chiefs Councils, as the sole traditional custodians of the Kanak people of New Caledonia,

Welcoming also the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia in March 2014,

Recalling the statement of the Chair of the visiting mission,

Having examined the report of the United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia,[4]

Welcoming the cooperation of the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to New Caledonia and its readiness for and concurrence with the dispatching of the 2014 visiting mission,

Taking note of the statement of the representative of the administering Power,

Acknowledging the successful conduct by New Caledonia of municipal and provincial elections in May 2014,

Taking note of the information presented to the Caribbean and Pacific regional seminars on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015 and in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, on the situation in the Territory, including on the issues related to the 2014 elections,

Aware of the challenges encountered in the 2014 provincial electoral process, particularly with regard to the work of the special administrative committees in updating the special electoral roll, the non-existence of the supplementary electoral roll from 1998 and the unavailability of the 1998 general electoral roll prior to 2014, and their potential impact on the referendum on self-determination,

1. *Reaffirms its approval* of the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on

the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to New Caledonia;[1]

2. *Reiterates its endorsement* of the report, observations, conclusions and suggested recommendations of the United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia conducted in 2014;[4]

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia for the close cooperation and assistance extended to the visiting mission;

4. *Notes* the concerns expressed regarding the challenges encountered in the provincial elections process with respect to the persistent varying interpretations of the restricted electorate provisions and the voter registration appeal process, and encourages the administering Power and the people of New Caledonia to address in an amicable and peaceful manner the concerns of all stakeholders under the existing relevant laws in the Territory and in France, while also respecting and upholding the spirit and letter of the Nouméa Accord;

5. *Expresses the view* that adequate measures for conducting the upcoming consultations on access to full sovereignty, including a just, fair, credible and transparent electoral roll, as provided in the Nouméa Accord, are essential for the conduct of a free, fair and genuine act of self-determination consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations principles and practices;

6. *Welcomes* in that respect the continuous dialogue undertaken by the parties in the framework of the committee of signatories to the Nouméa Accord to establish the parameters of the conduct of a conclusive act of self-determination, including the setting of an electoral roll, as provided in the Accord;

7. *Takes note* of the outcome of the twelfth meeting of the committee of signatories to the Nouméa Accord, held on 3 October 2014, which, inter alia, stressed the commitment of the administering Power to enable the people of New Caledonia to decide their future status in a fair, credible, democratic and transparent self-determination process consistent with the Accord;

8. *Notes with interest* the convening of the extraordinary meeting of the committee of signatories to the Nouméa Accord held in Paris on 5 June 2015 regarding the self-determination process of New Caledonia, including in particular the electoral roll for the referendum and related issues;

9. *Calls upon* France, the administering Power, in the light of the observations, conclusions and suggested recommendations of the visiting mission, to consider developing an education programme to inform the people of New Caledonia about the nature of self-determination so that they may be better prepared to face a future decision on the matter, and requests the Special Committee to provide all available assistance in that regard;

10. *Commends* the observations, conclusions and suggested recommendations of the visiting mission to the Government of France, as the administering Power, and the Government of New Caledonia for appropriate action;

11. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of the people of New Caledonia and within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony and mutual respect in order to continue to promote a

framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to determine their destiny;

12. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 69/97 of 5 December 2014 and 68/87 of 11 December 2013, respectively, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed that, in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

13. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, particularly the submission on 8 January 2015 on the most recent developments in New Caledonia;

14. *Notes* the continuing concerns expressed by the Kanak people regarding their underrepresentation in governmental and social structures, incessant migratory flows and the impact of mining on the environment;

15. *Commends* the "Cadres for the future" programme and encourages further enhancement of the training and capacity-building of high-level executives in the public and private sectors in the Territory, particularly in view of the ongoing transfer of powers from the Government of France to New Caledonia, while ensuring that the transfer of powers is undertaken in a manner consistent with the Nouméa Accord;

16. *Recalls* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia,[2] made in the light of relevant international standards, to assist with ongoing efforts to advance the rights of the Kanak people in the context of the implementation of the Nouméa Accord and the United Nations-supported decolonization process;

17. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the economic and social rebalancing initiatives undertaken by the administering Power, and urges its continuation in all areas and communities of the Territory, especially of the well-being of the Kanak indigenous people;

18. *Encourages* the administering Power, with the cooperation of the Government of New Caledonia, to ensure and enhance safeguards for and guarantees of the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to own, access, use and manage their natural resources, including proprietary rights for their future development;

19. *Recalls* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, and notes the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund;

20. *Welcomes* the accession of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste to the Chair of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the hosting, for the first time in New Caledonia, in June 2013, of the meetings of officials and leaders of the

Group, the successful completion of the chairmanship tenure in June 2015 and the opening, in February 2013, of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste unit at the headquarters of the Group secretariat in Port Vila;

21. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

22. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

23. *Takes note* of the information shared by participants from New Caledonia at the Caribbean and Pacific regional seminars on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015 and in Nadi from 21 to 23 May 2014, including on measured progress made in the social, economic, political and environmental spheres and more focused efforts, particularly on the rebalancing initiatives and electoral roll concerns, necessary for the long-term shared mutual benefit of all New Caledonians, and urges the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia to devote appropriate attention to addressing these issues;

24. *Welcomes* the peaceful conduct of provincial elections in New Caledonia on 11 May 2014, the preceding municipal elections and the subsequent efforts to form a new Government of New Caledonia, and encourages constructive engagement by all stakeholders in further developing New Caledonia for all, including by respecting and upholding the Nouméa Accord;

25. *Stresses* the importance of the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

26. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

27. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/70/23), chap. IX.

[2] A/HRC/18/35/Add.6, annex.

[3] A/AC.109/2114, annex.

[4] A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1.

Draft resolution V
Question of French Polynesia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of French Polynesia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of

Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2015 relating to French Polynesia,[1]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with all relevant resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Recalling its resolution 67/265 of 17 May 2013, entitled "Self-determination of French Polynesia", in which it affirmed the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination and independence in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter and its resolution 1514 (XV), recognized that French Polynesia remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter, and declared that an obligation exists under Article 73 *e* of the Charter on the part of the Government of France, as the administering Power of the Territory, to transmit information on French Polynesia,

Taking note of the section related to French Polynesia of the Final Document of the Seventeenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Algiers from 26 to 29 May 2014,

Expressing concern that 55 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[2] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, on a case-by-case basis and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Recognizing also that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Conscious of the responsibility of the administering Power to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of French Polynesia,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, on a case-by-case basis, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territories,

Recognizing the significant health and environmental impacts of nuclear testing conducted by the administering Power in the Territory over a 30 year period, and recognizing also the concerns in the Territory related to the consequences of those activities for the lives and health of the people, especially children and vulnerable groups, as well as the environment of the region, and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 69/84 of 5 December 2014, entitled "Effects of atomic radiation",

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30 year period of nuclear testing in French

Polynesia,[3] prepared pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 68/93 of 11 December 2013,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of French Polynesia to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of French Polynesia of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in French Polynesia, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

4. *Regrets* that the administering Power has not responded to the request to submit information on French Polynesia under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

5. *Reaffirms* that an obligation exists on the part of the administering Power to transmit information under Chapter XI of the Charter, and requests the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General such information on French Polynesia as called for under the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to intensify its dialogue with French Polynesia in order to facilitate rapid progress towards a fair and effective self-determination process, under which the terms and timelines for an act of self-determination would be agreed;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of French Polynesia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/70/23), chap. IX.

[2] Resolution 1514 (XV).

[3] A/69/189.

Draft resolution VI
Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Taking note of the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2015 relating to Tokelau,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 69/104 of 5 December 2014,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting with appreciation also the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Recalling the status of Tokelau as an associate member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Cognizant that New Zealand and Tokelau signed on 21 November 2003 a document entitled "Joint statement of the principles of partnership", which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the two partners,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association and its decision in August 2005 to hold in February 2006 a referendum on self-determination on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and its subsequent decision to hold a further referendum in October 2007, and that the two referendums did not produce the two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change the status of Tokelau from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand,

Recalling the holding of free and fair elections in the Territory in January 2014,

Noting the 2013 constitutional consultations, to be further considered by the Constitution Committee, which were driven by the people of Tokelau and which aimed at developing a model of government structure that is culturally appropriate

and sensitive to their current situation, culminating in the approval and ratification of the national symbol of the Territory, along with the constitution, national anthem and national flag,

Bearing in mind the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau at the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, that the self-determination process of the Territory could not be addressed in isolation from the threat of climate change and the rise in sea level, and also bearing in mind the intention of Tokelau to further review the National Strategic Plan in order to determine development and other priorities beyond 2015, including consideration of the issue of self-determination and how it would address a possible referendum on self-determination in cooperation with the administering Power,

Recalling the statement made at the seminar by the representative of the Government of New Zealand, as the administering Power, citing the close and cordial cooperation that has existed for nearly 90 years between the Territory and the administering Power, with an emphasis on quality health care and education, telecommunications, renewable energy, support for the fisheries sector and the establishment of transport infrastructure and services, including the ongoing construction of a new purpose-built ferry vessel for the people of Tokelau, to be delivered in 2015,

1. *Acknowledges* the decision of the General Fono in 2008 that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau will be deferred and that New Zealand and Tokelau will devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau are enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life and opportunities for the people of Tokelau;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils) since 2004, and notes that further discussion is planned on the recommendations of the report on the devolution review, compiled in 2012;

3. *Notes with appreciation* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements;

4. *Recalls* the adoption by Tokelau of its National Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 and that the Joint Commitment for Development between Tokelau and New Zealand 2011-2015 prioritizes four main development pillars, including good governance, infrastructure development, human resources capacity development and sustainable development;

5. *Acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, including the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project and a new shipping charter service, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization;

6. *Commends* the achievement by Tokelau in 2013 of 60 per cent of the objectives of its National Strategic Plan, including the completion of the Tokelau

Renewable Energy Project with the support of the administering Power and the granting of the Renewable Energy Award to the Government of Tokelau by the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority;

7. *Acknowledges* the need of Tokelau for continued support from the international community and its desire to become part of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, the impacts of climate change and the protection of the environment and oceans;

8. *Notes* the intention of Tokelau to further review its National Strategic Plan in order to determine development and other priorities beyond 2015 and include consideration of the issue of self-determination and how the Territory would address a possible referendum on self-determination in cooperation with the administering Power;

9. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

10. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs, and in this regard notes the successful chairmanship by Tokelau in 2014 of the tenth annual ministerial meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, held in Tokelau, and the representation of the Agency by the Ulu-o-Tokelau at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia in September 2014;

11. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

12. *Recognizes* the positive actions taken by the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau;

13. *Commends* the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continuing to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/70/23), chap. XI.

Draft resolution VII
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A
General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2015,[1]

Recalling all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolutions,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV), containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern that 55 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[2] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2020 and the plans of action for the Second[3] and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the stated position of the Government of the United States of America on the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration,

Noting also the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories affecting the internal structure of governance about which the Special Committee has received information,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting that a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by some administering Powers, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, of amending or enacting legislation for application to the Territories, either through orders in council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power, or through the unilateral application of laws and regulations,

Aware of the importance of the international financial services and tourism sectors for the economies of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that United Nations visiting and special missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time, in consultation with the relevant administering Powers and in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Mindful also that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the relevant administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Acknowledging the regular transmission by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General of information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

Aware of the importance both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Noting the stated positions of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the Special Committee and at its regional seminars,

Welcoming the Caribbean regional seminar held by the Special Committee in Managua and hosted by the Government of Nicaragua from 19 to 21 May 2015 as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess the progress made in the decolonization process and to review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its momentum in implementing its historic task,

Recognizing the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee[4] and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011-2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[5]

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and in that connection bearing in mind the applicability to the Territories of the programmes of action or outcome documents of all United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly in the economic and social spheres,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at the 2015 Caribbean regional seminar that all seven Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories were active associate members of the Commission,

Aware that the Human Rights Committee, as part of its mandate under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] reviews the status of the self-determination process, including in small island Territories under examination by the Special Committee,

Recalling the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

Recognizing that the annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat on developments in each of the small Territories,[7] as well as the substantive documentation and information furnished by experts, scholars, non-governmental organizations and other sources, have provided important inputs to update the present resolutions,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[8]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/119 on the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[9]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;[2]

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection reiterates its long-standing call for the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples being apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their respective administering Powers;

5. *Requests* the administering Powers to continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Territories, and encourages the administering Powers to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territories;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and, as a priority, to mitigate the effects of the current global financial crisis where possible, in consultation with the territorial

Governments concerned, towards the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. *Requests* the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories and to provide assistance to those Territories, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

9. *Welcomes* the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional activities, including the work of regional organizations;

10. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the plans of action for the Second[3] and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, in particular by expediting the application of the work programme for the decolonization of each Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, as well as by ensuring that periodic analyses are undertaken of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each Territory should fully reflect developments in those Territories;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the context of the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the various constitutional exercises in the respective Territories administered by the United Kingdom and the United States, and led by the territorial Governments, designed to address internal constitutional structures within the present territorial arrangements, and decides to follow closely the developments concerning the future political status of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

14. *Reiterates its request* that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Human Rights Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Committee;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to collaborate with the Economic and Social Council and its relevant subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, with the aim of exchanging information on developments in those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are reviewed by those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session and on the implementation of the present resolutions.

B
Individual Territories

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I
American Samoa

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa[10] and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015 that, while the Territory enjoyed a great deal of self-government, its current legal status was seen as an anachronism that exposed the Territory to situations beyond its control and needed to be remedied,

Aware that, under United States law, the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa,[11]

Recalling the position of the administering Power and the statements made by representatives of American Samoa at regional seminars inviting the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to send a visiting mission to the Territory,

Aware of the work of the Future Political Status Study Commission, completed in 2006, the release of its report, with recommendations, in January 2007 and the creation of the American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee, as well as the holding in June 2010 of the Territory's fourth Constitutional Convention,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the 2015 Caribbean regional seminar, expressing concern that the Territory continued to get its authority from the President and the Department of the Interior of the administering Power, that the Territory had no representation in the federal Congress and that its Constitution needed to be approved by the Government of the administering Power,

Acknowledging the outcome of the referendum held in November 2014, in which the proposal to give the Fono, the Territory's legislature, the authority to override the Governor's veto was rejected, and welcoming the discussion opened in the Territory as to the way forward,

Taking note of the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, issued on 5 June 2015, affirming the judgement of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, which dismissed a lawsuit seeking a declaratory judgement that would have asserted that the citizenship clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States extended to American Samoa,

Acknowledging the indication by the territorial Government, including at the 2015 Caribbean regional seminar, that certain federal laws have had and continue to have a debilitating impact on the Territory's ability to achieve sustainable economic growth,

Aware that, in July 2012, the United States passed Public Law 112-149, which includes a provision to delay the minimum wage increases in American Samoa, as provided by United States Public Law 110-28, until September 2015,

Aware also that American Samoa continues to be the only United States Territory to receive financial assistance from the administering Power for the operations of the territorial Government,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues with a view to making political and economic progress and in particular the announcement of a dialogue among the people of American Samoa on the Territory's future political status;

2. *Acknowledges* the indication by the territorial Government that American Samoa remain on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, under the purview of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, until such time at which its people have exercised their right to self-determination;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the invitation extended in 2015 by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

4. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public awareness programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the diversification and sustainability of the economy of the Territory and to address employment and cost-of-living issues;

II
Anguilla

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla[12] and other relevant information,

Recalling the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government and made possible by the administering Power, the first time that the seminar had been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

Recalling also the statement made by the representative of Anguilla at the Pacific regional seminar held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012 that the people of the Territory were concerned that they were being denied the full range of decolonization options under a drafting exercise that began in 2011,

Aware of the follow-up meeting, held after the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, between the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chief Minister of Anguilla, who reiterated the urgent need for a visiting mission,

Noting the internal constitutional review process resumed by the territorial Government in 2006, the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, which prepared its report in August 2006, the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007 on proposed constitutional amendments to be presented to the administering Power, the decisions taken in 2008 and 2011 to set up a drafting team to prepare a new constitution and present it for public consultation in the Territory and the recent efforts undertaken in that regard,

Noting also the participation of the Territory as a member in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council and an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking note of the general elections which took place in April 2015,

1. *Welcomes* the preparations made for a new constitution, and urges that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

4. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in strengthening its commitments in the economic domain, including budgetary matters, with regional support as needed and appropriate;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

III
Bermuda

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda[13] and other relevant information,

Aware of the statement made by the representative of Bermuda at the Pacific regional seminar held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties on the future status of the Territory, and noting the results of successive surveys by local media, according to which a majority of respondents did not wish to sever ties with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power, and a minority was in favour of independence,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

Noting serious concerns regarding good governance, transparency and accountability in the Territory, including with respect to external election campaign financing originating in a neighbouring country, which led the Premier to resign in May 2014 with a view to maintaining integrity and confidence in the political landscape,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and continues to regret that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

2. *Underlines* the need further to strengthen good governance, transparency and accountability in government for the benefit of the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Welcomes* the active participation of Bermuda in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

IV
British Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands[14] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013 that, while the Territory's relationship with the administering Power was stable and not problematic, it could be enhanced,

Aware of the negative impact of the global economic slowdown on the growth of the financial and tourism services sectors of the Territory,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

Taking note of the general elections which took place in June 2015,

1. *Recalls* the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, and stresses the importance of continued discussions on constitutional matters, to accord greater responsibility to the territorial Government for the effective implementation of the Constitution and increased levels of education relating to constitutional matters;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Recalls* the holding, in March 2014, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the United States Virgin Islands;

V
Cayman Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands[15] and other relevant information,

Conscious of the statement made by the representative of the territorial Government at the 2010 Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa,

Aware of the work, in accordance with the 2009 Constitution, of the Constitutional Commission, which serves as an advisory body on constitutional matters,

Aware that, in spite of the global economic downturn, the tourism sector continued to be one of the key drivers for economic growth and that the financial services sector reportedly continued to bring about slight growth in 2014,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2009 Constitution of the Cayman Islands, and stresses the importance of the work of the Constitutional Commission, including its work on human rights education;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public awareness outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to continue to implement financial sector management policies, medical tourism initiatives and unemployment alleviation programmes in various economic sectors;

VI
Guam

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam[16] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the Governor of Guam at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015, in which he presented an update on the efforts of Guam towards decolonization, including by securing funding for the public education programme on self-determination, and on the engagement of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in reinforcing public awareness in order to address the limited and distorted understanding of decolonization,

Noting also the concern expressed by the representative of the Governor about the reinstatement of a lawsuit challenging the voting restrictions for the Territory's plebiscite on self-determination,

Cognizant of the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization to promote in the Territory the holding of a plebiscite on self-determination, to populate the decolonization registry, as required by public law, to enhance the ability to expediently register those who have not yet been registered and to identify and secure territorial and federal resources for a self-determination education programme,

Aware that, under United States law, the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[17]

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant of the importance of the administering Power continuing to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Aware of the deep concern expressed by civil society and other parties regarding the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the planned transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination and its ongoing work on a self-determination vote, as well as its public education efforts;

2. *Stresses* that the decolonization process in Guam should be compatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

3. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter, and stresses the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory;

4. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

5. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating public outreach efforts, including through the funding of the public education campaign, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, and welcomes the recent outreach work by the territorial Government;

6. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

VII
Montserrat

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat[18] and other relevant information,

Noting with concern the continuing consequences of the 1995 volcanic eruption which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the population of the Territory to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory and which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

Acknowledging the continuing assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

Aware that Montserrat continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Taking note of the letter dated 2 June 2015 from the Premier of Montserrat addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, requesting to address the Special Committee in order to share the concerns of his Government regarding some situations that affect the lives of Montserratians,

Noting the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Montserrat, as conveyed by the Premier of Montserrat to the Chair of the Special Committee in their meeting on 11 May 2015,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2011 Constitution of Montserrat and the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward to consolidate the gains provided for in the Constitution;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the Territory's participation in the work of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII
Pitcairn

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn[19] and other relevant information,

Taking into account the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population, area and access,

Aware that the administering Power and the territorial Government have implemented a governance structure to strengthen administrative capacity in the Territory, based on consultations with the people of the Territory, and that Pitcairn continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Cognizant that the administering Power and the territorial Government have developed a five-year strategic development plan, covering the period from 2012 to

2016, that sets out the views and aspirations of the people of the Territory for the socioeconomic development of the Territory,

Aware of the assessment made in 2013 that the population of the Territory needs to be boosted if the Territory is to have a sustainable future and of the approval by the Pitcairn Island Council of an immigration policy and the repopulation plan, covering the period from 2014 to 2019, designed to promote immigration and repopulation and bring people with the necessary skills and commitment to Pitcairn,

Noting with concern the findings contained in the final report on the survey commissioned by the Pitcairn Island Council to ascertain whether members of the diaspora had any interest in returning to the Territory and the factors conditioning a decision,

1. *Welcomes* all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government that would further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory, with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through training of local personnel;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support socioeconomic and environmental security in Pitcairn, including concerning demographic matters;

4. *Welcomes* the work carried out on the preparation of the five-year strategic development plan for the island;

IX
Saint Helena

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena[20] and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the statement made by the representative of Saint Helena at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015 that the Territory had no aspiration to independence and had been able to have a formal form of government,

Noting the concerns expressed by the representative of Saint Helena about the potential negative impacts of the construction of the airport, including the growing number of expatriate families settling in the Territory and the lack of a specific plan to operate an air route or sea link between Saint Helena and neighbouring islands,

Noting also the information provided by the representative of Saint Helena that, although the 2009 Constitution of Saint Helena enshrined human rights provisions, some international instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, have not yet been extended to the Territory,

Taking into account the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

Recalling the fact that, in January 2013, following a resolution passed in September 2012 by the Legislative Council to undertake minor adjustments to the 2009 Constitution, a public consultation process was launched,

Aware that a consultative poll was held in March 2013, with the majority opting for no change to the Constitution, and that, for the first time, a general election based on one constituency was held in July 2013,

Cognizant that Saint Helena continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment, transport and communications infrastructure,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2009 Constitution of the Territory and the further development of democratic and good governance;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socioeconomic development challenges of the Territory;

X
Turks and Caicos Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands[21] and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the statement made by the representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015,

Recalling also the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006 at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

Noting the decision of the administering Power to suspend parts of the 2006 Constitution, the subsequent presentation of a draft constitution for public consultation in 2011 and the introduction of a new constitution for the Territory, as well as the election of a new territorial Government in 2012,

Aware that the 2014 report of the Constitutional Review Committee, which was submitted to and considered by the House of Assembly, is under consideration by the administering Power,

Recalling that, in March 2014, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community received an update on the situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which they will continue to monitor, and that they expressed their support for the full restoration of democracy in the Territory on terms driven by its people,

Acknowledging the impact that the global economic slowdown and other relevant developments have had on tourism and related real estate development, which are the mainstays of the economy of the Territory,

1. *Reiterates its support* for the full restoration of democracy in the Territory and the work of the Constitutional Review Committee in that regard, and notes the efforts of the administering Power to restore good governance, including through the introduction in 2011 of a new constitution and the holding of elections in November 2012, and sound financial management in the Territory;

2. *Notes* the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in support of a democratically elected territorial Government and of the full restoration of democracy in the Territory as decided by its people;

3. *Also notes* the continuing debate on constitutional reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;

4. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of its people, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory;

XI
United States Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands[22] and other relevant information,

Aware that, under United States law, the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[23]

Aware also of the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as its requests to the administering Power and the United Nations system for assistance to its public education programme,

Cognizant that a draft constitution was proposed in 2009 and subsequently forwarded to the administering Power, which in 2010 requested the Territory to consider its objections to the draft constitution,

Cognizant also that the Fifth Revision Convention, established and convened in 2012, was mandated to ratify and approve the final revised draft constitution,

Noting the holding of elections in the Territory in November 2014,

Aware of the closing of the Hovensa plant, and noting the continuing negative impact on manufacturing and on the employment situation in the Territory,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of a draft constitution emanating from the Territory in 2009, as a result of the work of the United States Virgin Islands Fifth Constitutional Convention, for review by the administering Power, and requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to facilitate the process for approval of the proposed territorial constitution in the United States Congress and its implementation, once agreed upon in the Territory;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public education programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Expresses its concern* regarding the continuing negative impact of the Hovensa plant closure;

5. *Reiterates its call* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Recalls* the holding, in March 2014, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the British Virgin Islands.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/70/23), chap. X.

[2] Resolution 1514 (XV).

[3] A/56/61, annex.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/70/23).

[5] Resolution 65/119.

[6] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[7] A/AC.109/2015/1, 4-12 and 14.

[8] A/65/330 and Add.1.

[9] A/70/73 and Add.1.

[10] A/AC.109/2015/12.

[11] United States Congress, 1929 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1661, 45 Stat. 1253), and Secretary's Order 2657, Department of the Interior, United States of America, 1951, as amended.

[12] A/AC.109/2015/14.
[13] A/AC.109/2015/6.
[14] A/AC.109/2015/7.
[15] A/AC.109/2015/8.
[16] A/AC.109/2015/4.
[17] United States Congress, Organic Act of Guam, 1950, as amended.
[18] A/AC.109/2015/9.
[19] A/AC.109/2015/5.
[20] A/AC.109/2015/1.
[21] A/AC.109/2015/11.
[22] A/AC.109/2015/10.
[23] United States Congress, Revised Organic Act, 1954.

Draft resolution VIII
Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2015 relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 69/106 of 5 December 2014,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General, in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

Recalling the issuance by the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, and encourages the continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet on what the United Nations can do to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories, published in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, and updated for the United Nations website on decolonization;

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, to this end, requests the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all of the media available, including publications, radio, television and the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help to improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/70/23), chap. III.

Draft resolution IX
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2015,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 69/107 of 5 December 2014, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, by which it declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways and means to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2011,

Regretting that measures to eliminate colonialism by 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, have not been successful,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the continued efforts of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the formal participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of certain administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

Noting that the Caribbean regional seminar was held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 65/119, by which it declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence, on a case-by-case basis;

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[2]

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in its future sessions and seminars;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

7. *Recalls with satisfaction* the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate, and, inter alia, to facilitate visiting missions of the Committee to the Territories on a case-by case-basis and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories;

10. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable, are an effective means of ascertaining the situation of the peoples of the Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories, and therefore requests the Special Committee to undertake at least one visiting mission a year;

11. *Recalls* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[3] updated as necessary, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

12. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

14. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the relevant administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

15. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance, as needed, to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, President pro tempore of the Special Committee, to meet informally at least once a year with the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee during the intersessional period, in order to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help to advance the decolonization agenda on a case-by-case basis;

18. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2015,[1] in which the programme of work for 2016 is outlined, in particular the Pacific regional seminar and a visiting mission to one of the Territories on its agenda, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and augment the resources at the disposal of the Special Committee in order to ensure that the Committee has the funding, facilities and services commensurate with its envisioned yearly programmes, as mandated in relevant General Assembly resolutions, including especially its resolution 69/107, paragraph 7.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/70/23).

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

[3] A/56/61, annex.

Annex I

List of documents of the Special Committee in 2015

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2015/1	Saint Helena (working paper)	2 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/2	Western Sahara (working paper)	3 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/3	Tokelau (working paper)	4 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/4	Guam (working paper)	5 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/5	Pitcairn (working paper)	6 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/6	Bermuda (working paper)	6 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/7	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	11 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/8	Cayman Islands (working paper)	12 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/9	Montserrat (working paper)	23 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/10	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	24 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/11	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	25 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/12	American Samoa (working paper)	4 March 2015
A/AC.109/2015/13	Gibraltar (working paper)	9 March 2015
A/AC.109/2015/14	Anguilla (working paper)	9 March 2015
A/AC.109/2015/15	New Caledonia (working paper)	23 March 2015
A/AC.109/2015/16	French Polynesia (working paper)	24 March 2015
A/AC.109/2015/17	Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda, to be held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015: guidelines and rules of procedure	18 February 2015
A/AC.109/2015/18	Report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2014 to March 2015	16 March 2015
A/AC.109/2015/19	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[a] (working paper)	30 March 2015

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2015/20	Letter dated 15 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	26 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.1	Note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly	22 December 2014
A/AC.109/2015/L.2	Organization of work: note by the Chair	22 December 2014
A/AC.109/2015/L.3	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	5 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.4	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	5 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.5	Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	5 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.6	Decision of the Special Committee of 23 June 2014 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	16 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.7	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	23 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.8	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	18 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.9	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	19 June 2015

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2015/L.9/Rev.1	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	25 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.10	Implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	5 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.11	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	5 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.12	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone	24 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.13	Special Committee decision of 23 June 2014 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee	20 March 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.15	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone	17 June 2015
A/AC.109/2015/L.16	Question of French Polynesia: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	19 June 2015

[a] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

Annex II

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda, held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015

I. Organization of the seminar

1. The seminar was held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015. It held five meetings, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, two administering Powers and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts took part (see appendix II). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

2. The seminar was conducted by the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, Xavier Lasso Mendoza, with the participation of representatives of the following States members of the Committee: Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Two administering Powers, France and the United Kingdom, participated as observers. Other States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco and Spain. Also represented at the seminar was the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

3. At the 1st meeting, on 19 May 2015, the Chair appointed Jaime Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) and Alexander Volgarev (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairs of the seminar, with José Antonio Cousiño (Chile) appointed as Rapporteur, in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the seminar. The Chair also established an informal drafting group and appointed the Rapporteur as its facilitator.

4. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee, the administering Powers, territorial Governments and other concerned Member States and stakeholders in the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:

   (a) Principles established by the General Assembly for the conduct of free and genuine decolonization processes, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with United Nations principles and practices;

   (b) How to enable the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, to decide their future political status with complete knowledge and awareness of the full range of political options available to them, including independence;

(c) How to ensure, on a case-by-case basis, that all political exercises relating to decolonization processes are carried out in an atmosphere free from intimidation and outside interference and that allows for the open expression of the interests and aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(d) How to ensure, on a case-by-case basis, that all decolonization processes are preceded by adequate and unbiased campaigns of political education.

2. Perspectives of the Special Committee, the administering Powers, territorial Governments and other concerned Member States and stakeholders, as well as the views of experts and civil society:

(a) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean region;

(b) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Pacific region;

(c) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of other regions.

3. Role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions: presentation by the United Nations.

4. The United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda: recommendations on advancing the decolonization process.

II. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

5. On 19 May 2015, the Chair of the Special Committee, Xavier Lasso Mendoza (Ecuador), opened the seminar and acknowledged the annual Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. Also at the opening ceremony, the former President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, Miguel D'Escoto, and the Adviser on Foreign Policy to the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, delivered a welcome address applauding the work of the Special Committee and urging it to redouble its efforts towards realizing the goal of eradicating colonialism, which he observed had stagnated.

7. At the opening ceremony, the Chief of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix I), underlining the remarkable progress made in the past 70 years in efforts to advance the decolonization agenda, and highlighting in particular that more than 80 nations that were once colonized were currently counted among sovereign Member States of the United Nations. He encouraged the Special Committee and seminar participants to build on that track record towards the complete eradication of colonialism by the year 2020, the end date of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared in General Assembly resolution 65/119.

8. Also at the opening ceremony, the Chair made a further statement highlighting the task ahead for the Special Committee.

B. Statements and discussions[a]

9. At the 1st meeting, on 19 May, an expert, Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine), made a presentation on the role of the Special Committee and other stakeholders, within the context of the broad theme of the seminar.

10. Related comments and statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, Cuba, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, China, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Morocco, Algeria and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Statements were also made by one expert and the representatives of Frente Polisario, who occupied the seat for Western Sahara, and New Caledonia.

11. At the 2nd meeting, on 19 May, the status of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region was reviewed, from the perspective of representatives of that region and within the context of the seminar theme. A related statement was made by Conrad Howell (Turks and Caicos).

12. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ecuador, Argentina, Cuba and Chile. Four experts also made statements.

13. Also at the 2nd meeting, the status of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region was considered, from the perspective of representatives of that region and within the context of the seminar theme. Statements were made by Talauega Eleasalo Ale (American Samoa), Edward A. Alvarez (Guam) and Jean-Louis D'Anglebermes (New Caledonia), following which comments and statements were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, France, Indonesia and Cuba. Statements were also made by the representative of Guam and by one expert.

14. At the same meeting, the views of independent experts regarding the situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region were heard. Related presentations were made by three experts, namely, Peter Klegg (United Kingdom), Daniel Manfred Malcolm (Turks and Caicos) and Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico).

15. At the 3rd meeting, on 20 May, statements and comments on the situation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ecuador, Cuba, Nicaragua, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Argentina, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and China. Statements were also made by the representatives of Saint Helena and the Turks and Caicos Islands and two experts.

16. Also at the 3rd meeting, the status of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region was addressed, from the viewpoint of independent experts and presentations were made by four experts, namely, Michael Lujan Bevacqua (Guam), Edward Paul Wolfers (Australia), Roch Wamytan (New Caledonia) and Mikaël Forrest (New Caledonia). Related statements and comments were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria, Nicaragua and China.

17. At the 4th meeting, on 20 May, statements were made by five experts on the situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region, following which

[a] Statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/index.shtml.

the status of other Non-Self-Governing Territories in other regions was addressed, beginning with a presentation by Phyllis Rendell (Falkland Islands (Malvinas)).[b]

18. Statements were made by El Salvador, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Argentina. Statements was also made by Ms. Rendell and one expert.

19. At the same meeting, presentations on three other Non-Self-Governing Territories in other regions were delivered by Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar), Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich (Frente Polisario, who occupied the seat for Western Sahara) and Pamela Ward Pearce (Saint Helena).

20. Related statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Guatemala, Ethiopia, China, Papua New Guinea and Argentina. Further statements were made by Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar) and Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich (Frente Polisario, who occupied the seat for Western Sahara).

21. At the 5th meeting, on 21 May, the members of the Special Committee present at the seminar held informal consultations on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

22. Upon resumption of the seminar, a presentation on the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories was delivered by a representative of the Sub-Regional Headquarters for the Caribbean of ECLAC in Trinidad and Tobago, Dale Alexander.

23. At the same meeting, the a presentation was made by an expert, Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine), on recommendations, within the context of the seminar theme.

C. Closing of the seminar

24. At the 5th meeting, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar.

25. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Nicaragua (appendix III).

26. Also at the same meeting, closing remarks were made by the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations, María Rubiales de Chamorro, and by the former President of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-third session, Miguel D'Escoto, and the Adviser on Foreign Policy to the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

27. The Chair of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

[b] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

III. Conclusions and recommendations

28. Members of the Special Committee participating in the seminar recalled the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the role of the Special Committee to examine the application of the Declaration, to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress in, and extent of, the implementation of the Declaration, and to report to the General Assembly.

29. Participating members of the Special Committee reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of previous seminars.

30. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2015/17, annex), participating members of the Special Committee will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the Committee at its substantive session in June 2015.

A. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda

31. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Noted that the period 2011-2020 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Participants assessed the progress achieved, reviewed existing methods of work and garnered renewed momentum with a view to completing the Special Committee's historic task;

(b) Identified a number of issues in the process of decolonization during the Third Decade, including the impact of climate change, especially in Non-Self-Governing Territories, the global economic and financial crisis, the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of civil society, the role of women, the empowerment of vulnerable people and the need for capacity-building for full self-governance;

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of many of the challenges faced by some Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dynamics of an interconnected world, underlined that efforts must be made, through the involvement of relevant stakeholders and on a case-by-case basis, for the continued strengthening of administrative capacity, good governance and economic sustainability of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which would allow the Territories to address the cross-cutting issues in a holistic manner;

(d) Acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability, and that the ongoing global economic and financial crisis had highlighted the importance of the economic sustainability and diversification of the economic base in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(e) Recognized the important role played by United Nations agencies, regional organizations and regional arrangements in assisting many Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with various emerging challenges;

(f) Underlined that education and public awareness, including of the indigenous people, remain crucial elements for decolonization and, in this connection, recalled the responsibility of the administering Powers to ensure that the peoples concerned would be in a position to make an informed decision regarding the future political status of their Territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(g) Welcomed calls for joint projects for the enhancement of public education about the nature of the constitutional relationship in some Territories involving the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(h) Stressed the important role of women in the process of decolonization, including in education, poverty eradication and community empowerment;

(i) Recognized the role of and the need for increased dialogue with civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(j) Recognized the role of civil society, including the business community and non-governmental organizations, in the development process and in facilitating the achievement of economic sustainability and the well-being of the peoples in the Territories;

(k) Underlined the fact that status-related and/or constitutional review exercises in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were delicate processes that should meet certain expectations towards accomplishing their decolonization, on a case-by-case basis and where appropriate, including through informal, working-level communication and dialogue among all concerned;

(l) Reiterated that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remains crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate and would be beneficial to all stakeholders, including the administering Powers themselves, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/107 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of France in the seminar and encouraged other administering Powers to participate in future regional seminars on decolonization;

(m) Recognized the importance of the active engagement of other States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Special Committee in the work of the Committee, and in that connection welcomed the participation of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco, Spain and Uruguay in the seminar.

B. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda in the Caribbean, including follow-up to the 2014 Pacific regional seminar

32. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Welcomed and encouraged the participation of the representative of the territorial Government and the expert of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the information they provided to the seminar, as well as the participation of the expert and civil society representative from Puerto Rico, who shared views on the process of decolonization in the Caribbean region, in particular on the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

(b) Welcomed the statement made, in which it was recommended that, in line with the resolutions and decisions concerning Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee since 1972 reaffirming the inalienable right of its people to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico, the Special Committee keep the question under continuous review and make specific recommendations for the consideration of the General Assembly, and took note of the presentation made by an expert from Puerto Rico on the impact of the debt on the economic situation in the territory;

(c) Demanded the release of political prisoners convicted for fighting for the independence and self-determination of Puerto Rico, including Oscar López Rivera, who has been imprisoned under inhumane conditions for thirty-four years;

With regard to the situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands:

(d) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made by the representative of the territorial Government and noted the information provided with regard to the presence of the Special Committee in the Territory;

(e) Took note of the proposals to introduce an internal system of checks and balances into the territorial Government and to consider adopting a resolution dedicated to the Territory.

C. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda in the Pacific, including follow-up to the 2014 Pacific regional seminar

33. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

With regard to the situation in American Samoa:

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made by the representative of the Governor and the information provided;

(b) Noted that while the Territory's relationship with its administering Power had been mostly beneficial, there were several economic and political shortcomings;

(c) Noted the concerns expressed by the representative of the Governor, that American Samoa continued to get its authority from the President and the Department of the Interior of the United States, that the Territory had no representation in the federal Congress and that its Constitution needed to be approved by the administering Power's Government;

(d) Noted the concern expressed over certain United States federal laws that continue to have a debilitating impact on the Territory's ability to achieve sustainable economic growth;

(e) Took note of the outcome of the referendum held in November 2014, which rejected the proposal to give the Fono, the Territory's legislature, the authority to override the Governor's veto, and welcomed the discussion opened in the Territory on the way forward;

(f) Welcomed the invitation extended to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory;

With regard to the situation in Guam:

(g) Took note of the statement made by the representative of the Governor, presenting an update on the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization towards decolonization over the past year, namely, the availability of a significant budget for a self-determination education campaign;

(h) Noted with appreciation the engagement of the Guam Commission on Decolonization in reinforcing public awareness, including through public programming to air on television stations focused on three themes: the decolonization process, the status options and their effects on labour, trade and commerce on Guam and "who we are";

(i) Took note of the proposals made to expedite the decolonization process, including that the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs supply information on the political status options and that a work programme for the decolonization of each Territory be considered by the General Assembly;

(j) Stressed again the need for continued close monitoring of the situation in the Territory, especially in relation to ambiguities in the law regarding the decolonization registry and the need for public awareness, including an education programme on options for self-determination;

(k) Took note of the concern expressed over the announcement that the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had issued an opinion reinstating a lawsuit challenging the voting restrictions for Guam's plebiscite on political status;

(l) Expressed their view that the decolonization plebiscite in Guam should be compatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the

Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

With regard to the situation in French Polynesia:

(m) Shared the continuing concern of the Special Committee over the failure by the administering Power to submit information on the Territory pursuant to Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

(n) In this connection, underlined the importance of securing substantive and reliable information about the situation in the Territory as a means of complementing the informational working paper prepared by the Secretariat;

(o) Noted also the concerns expressed about the access, ownership and rights of the Ma'ohi people in regard to the resources of the exclusive economic zone, and recalled General Assembly resolution 69/107, in which the Assembly urged the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requested the relevant administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(p) Noted again the constructive cooperation and engagement of the Government of France with regard to the self-determination process in New Caledonia, in particular for permitting the first visiting mission of the Special Committee;

(q) Welcomed the statement by the representative of the administering Power, who said that since 1 April 2015 a Government had been established and was ready to deal with the major issues before it and that New Caledonia had seen unprecedented development over the past decade;

(r) Shared the concerns expressed over migration into New Caledonia and drew the attention of the administering Power to ensuring that the Kanak indigenous people are not undermined, in accordance with United Nations provisions;

(s) Noted the economic and social rebalancing efforts undertaken by the administering Power and that more efforts are required to ensure the timeliness of the transfer of powers under the Nouméa Accord and for adequate capacity-building of the Kanak indigenous people;

(t) Reaffirmed General Assembly resolution 69/107, in which the Assembly stated that, in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

(u) Reiterated the call to all parties involved, in the interest of all of the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

(v) Stressed the need for continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory, including follow-up to the visiting mission's recommendations, and noted the request from the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front for electoral assistance from the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat for the self-determination process, in the final phase of implementation of the Nouméa Accord;

(w) Took note of the information on the convening of the upcoming special extraordinary meeting of the signatory parties to the Nouméa Accord, to be held in Paris on 5 June 2015, to discuss the continuing concerns related to the electoral lists and related issues.

D. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda in the other regions, including follow-up to the 2014 Pacific regional seminar

34. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

With regard to the situation in Falkland Islands (Malvinas):

(a) Recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on that question, which requested the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and the subsequent relevant resolutions adopted at the United Nations, including General Assembly resolution 31/49, in which the Assembly called upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply the introduction of unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the Assembly, recalled also that 2015 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 2065 (XX) on the Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) by the Assembly, renewed to date by the Assembly and its Special Committee, and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts in fulfilling his mission of good offices in compliance with the General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions on that question;

With regard to the situation in Gibraltar:

(b) Recalled the need to put into practice the appeal made by the United Nations to Spain and the United Kingdom to hold talks on the question of Gibraltar in order to reach, in the spirit of the Brussels Agreement of 1984 and listening to the interests of the population of Gibraltar, a definitive and negotiated solution of the controversy in the light of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the applicable principles and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, noted that, given that the trilateral Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar has ceased to exist, Spain and the United Kingdom were trying to set up a new mechanism for local cooperation in the interest of social well-being and regional economic development in which the competent Gibraltarian local authorities and the competent Spanish local and regional authorities would participate, and expressed the hope that this mechanism could commence soon;

With regard to the situation in Saint Helena:

(c) Expressed their appreciation for the participation of a representative of the Government of Saint Helena, who travelled numerous days from the Territory to arrive in Nicaragua, and the information that she provided;

(d) Noted the views expressed by the representative of the Territory that Saint Helena had no aspiration to independence and had been able to have a formal form of government;

(e) Took note of the concerns expressed by the representative of Saint Helena about the potential negative impacts of the construction of the airport, including a growing number of expatriate families settling in the Territory, and the lack of a definite plan to operate an air route or sea link between Saint Helena and neighbouring islands;

(f) Took note of the information provided by the representative of Saint Helena that although the new constitution of 2009 enshrined human rights provisions, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other major international agreements had not yet been extended to the territory;

With regard to the situation in Western Sahara:

(g) Recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, and reaffirmed all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 69/101, and supported Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014) and 2218 (2015) and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to finding a solution to the question of Western Sahara, underscored the need for renewed efforts to reinvigorate the search for a lasting political solution to the issue, called on the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions and the success of the negotiations, and reiterated the call made at previous regional seminars to the parties to continue such negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

E. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories

35. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the representative of the Sub-Regional Headquarters for the Caribbean of ECLAC at the seminar and the information he provided;

(b) Encouraged the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations

Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, as well as other organizations of the United Nations system, to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including participation in the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

(c) Expressed their support of the role of United Nations regional commissions in enhancing and expanding the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in their activities as associate members, in particular the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee of ECLAC and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

F. Suggestions and proposals for the Third Decade

36. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Reaffirmed that all peoples have the right to self-determination and, by virtue of that right, to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) Reaffirmed also that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) Reconfirmed that the United Nations had a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization, that the mandate of the Special Committee was a major programme of the Organization, and that United Nations support should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters have been resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(d) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization and for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(e) Underlined the importance for the Special Committee to develop a proactive and focused approach, in fulfilment of the goal of decolonization vis-à-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list. The Special Committee needed to continue to approach each case in a spirit of openness, to build on the available options and to bring about more dynamism in the decolonization process, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(f) In view of the contribution of various regional organizations and regional arrangements to the capacity-building of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, advised that their effective participation in the work of the relevant regional organizations and regional arrangements needed to be facilitated, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanisms, along with the strengthening of concrete regional functional cooperation in various

areas, such as governance, natural disaster preparedness, climate change and community empowerment;

(g) Also in view of the important role of regional organizations and regional arrangements in providing assistance to the relevant Non-Self-Governing Territories in support of the process of decolonization, suggested that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate and the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, strengthen its interactions and collaboration with relevant regional and subregional organizations;

(h) On the issue of public outreach to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on decolonization issues, advised the Special Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, actively to engage and seek new and innovative ways to promote a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including to complement their ongoing efforts and ensure that the information provided effectively reaches the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(i) On the issue of education, suggested that the relevant territorial Governments and the administering Powers consider incorporating decolonization issues into the school curricula of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(j) On the status-related and/or constitutional review exercises and the overall process of decolonization, stressed that such processes should be approached on a case-by-case basis and in a way that is respectful of human rights, transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory, with the involvement of the people concerned, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(k) On the relationship with administering Powers, advised that interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers should continue to be nurtured and strengthened through various possible platforms and means, including informal, working-level dialogue, and reaffirmed that all administering Powers, particularly those which have not done so, needed to engage effectively in the work of the Special Committee;

(l) In this connection, underlined the crucial importance of intensifying current efforts to enhance communication and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers, and urged the Special Committee to continue to explore and seek possible concerted interaction in that regard, in formal and informal settings, with a view to making progress in decolonization during the Third Decade, on a case-by-case basis;

(m) In addition, underlined the crucial importance of increasing current efforts to enhance relations between the Special Committee, other concerned Member States and stakeholders as well as experts and civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(n) In view of the valuable contribution of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminar, reiterated that the Special Committee, through the proper mechanism and with the assistance of the Secretariat, should continue to

work towards full participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in future seminars. The administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

(o) Underlined the importance of enhancing relations between the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in sharing information about their territories, and in that regard continued to take note of the proposal made by a representative of a Non-Self-Governing Territory on the creation of a network among the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(p) In that connection, the Special Committee should continue to retool its methods of work and hone its capacity to conduct the seminars in an innovative manner to ensure a higher degree of United Nations-funded participation of its members in the regional seminars in order to allow the Committee to better hear the views of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization;

(q) On the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, stressed that the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies needed to engage with the work of the Special Committee and strengthen their efforts, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanism, in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that in that regard the Special Committee needed to develop ways and means to encourage the participation of those agencies and bodies;

(r) Advised the Special Committee that it needed to develop ways and means through which it could make a better assessment, on a case-by-case basis, of the current stage of decolonization and self-determination in each Non-Self-Governing Territory in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, which could serve as a checklist of the progress made and work to be achieved and, in that connection, invited the Special Committee to continue to develop a specific project proposal in this regard;

(s) Reiterated that the Special Committee needed to continue working towards sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the involvement of the relevant territorial Government and administering Power, on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and in that regard noted the interest expressed at the seminar by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in such visiting and special missions;

(t) Reaffirmed that the process of decolonization was incomplete until all the outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters were resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(u) Within the context of the Third Decade, the Special Committee should continue to take stock of current challenges and opportunities for the decolonization process and draw up a pragmatic plan of action for the Third Decade with a view to accelerating the decolonization process.

Appendix I

Message of the Secretary-General to the Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda

Delivered by the Chief of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs

It gives me great pleasure to send my greetings to all the participants gathered in Managua for the Caribbean regional seminar on decolonization. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Government and people of Nicaragua for their generous hospitality in hosting this important event to take stock of the decolonization agenda on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations.

In celebrating this milestone, we also mark 70 years in advancing the decolonization agenda. Since the founding of the Organization in 1945, more than 80 nations that had been under colonial rule, with a collective 750 million inhabitants, have joined the United Nations as sovereign States. In 1946, there were 72 Territories on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by 8 Member States. Today, 17 Territories, with a total population of 1.6 million people, and administered by four administering Powers, remain on the list. Much has been achieved, yet we have not completed the task of decolonization or reached the goal of eradicating colonialism.

The fulfilment of the objectives of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is a common endeavour for all concerned — the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the administering Powers and other stakeholders in the decolonization process — which requires their constructive engagement, sustained efforts and political will, with the support of the Special Committee on decolonization. The international community has an obligation to ensure that a full measure of self-government is achieved in the remaining Territories, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant United Nations resolutions.

In recent years, it has been encouraging to witness the signs of rejuvenation in the work of the Special Committee. Partnership between the administering Powers and the Special Committee is increasing. I thank the current Chair of the Special Committee for his dedicated efforts in this regard.

This seminar provides opportunities for the Special Committee to engage with all involved, along with experts and members of civil society, on the situation of the individual Territories and issues of concern to the Territories. This is also an occasion for all participants to present their recommendations to the Special Committee so as to assist this body in considering its way forward in completing the decolonization processes for each Territory as mandated by the General Assembly.

In addition to the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, this year also marks the midpoint of the Third International Decade. At this juncture, I urge all participants in this seminar to identify concrete and implementable steps that could help us reach the noble goal of the eradication of colonialism before the end of the International Decade in 2020. As Secretary-General, I stand ready to assist you in the remaining part of this journey. In that spirit of partnership, I wish you a productive and successful seminar.

Appendix II

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Ecuador (Chair)	Xavier Lasso Mendoza[a] Diego Morejón José Eduardo Proaño[a]
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño
China	Wei Zonglei
Cuba	Oscar León González[a]
Ethiopia	Dawit Yirga Woldegerima[a]
Indonesia	Indah Nuria Savitri[a]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Hossein Maleki[a]
Nicaragua	Miguel D'Escoto María Rubiales de Chamorro Jaime Hermida Castillo Rubén Berrios Juan Damau Patricia Bajana
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa
Russian Federation	Alexander A. Volgarev[a]
Syrian Arab Republic	Bashar Ja'afari[a]
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño Zael Alexis Fernandez Rivera José Arrue Ansonith Alvano

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Sofiane Mimouni Hadj Ali Zaina Benhabouche
Argentina	Gerardo Díaz Bartolome Gonzalo S. Mazzeo
Australia	Peta McDougall
Costa Rica	Rebeca Díaz Calderón
El Salvador	Morena Iris Bustamante

[a] Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Guatemala	Diego Israel Girón Rodas
Mexico	Miguel Díaz Reynoso Gilberto Velarde Meixueiro
Morocco	Abderrahman Leibek Omar Kadiri Khaddad El Moussaoui
Spain	Rafael Garranzo García Carlos Blasco Bernáldez José Miguel Bello Villarino
Administering Powers	
France	Antoine Joly
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Chris Campbell
Non-Self-Governing Territories	
American Samoa	Talauega Eleasalo Ale Mauga Tasi
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[b]	Phyllis Rendell
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano Albert Poggio
Guam	Edward A. Alvarez
New Caledonia	Jean-Louis D'Anglebermes François Bockel Marjorie Ehnyimane
Saint Helena	Pamela Ward Pearce
Turks and Caicos Islands	Conrad Howell
Western Sahara	Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich Sueliman Tieb Mayra Luisa Sandoval
United Nations funds and programmes	
United Nations Development Programme	Silvia Rucks Tamara Delgado Glomara Iglesias

[b] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

Organization of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Dale Alexander

Experts

Alejandro Betts

Michael Lujan Bevacqua

Sergei Cherniavsky

Peter Clegg

Mikaël Forrest

Daniel Manfred Malcolm

Wilma Reveron-Collazo

Roch Wamytan

Edward Paul Wolfers

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Nicaragua

The participants at the Caribbean regional seminar,

Having met in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015 to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard an important statement at the opening of the Seminar by the former President of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-third session, Miguel D'Escoto, and the Adviser to the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra,

Taking note of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Nicaragua for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Managua.

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